

Two feared killed in renewed Benue land dispute

NO fewer than two persons were feared killed and a number of houses razed in renewed hostilities over land dispute in the Konshisha Local Council of Benue State.

The Guardian learnt that fighting broke out when some persons from Ugambe in Konshisha Local Council tried to bury a dead person on the stretch of fertile land that had been in dispute between the two neigh-

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bouring communities in the last 51 years.

Some armed youths from Ullam village ambushed the funeral procession from Ugambe, last weekend. After the Ugambe people beat a retreat, they mobilised and returned for a full scale fighting with their Ullam neighbours on Monday

afternoon.

The fighting continued on Monday night, with gunshots heard at Aliade, the headquarters of Gwer Local Council. On Tuesday, residents of the two feuding villages started fleeing the area, with many displaced persons thronging to Aliade and Tseagberegba.

As at yesterday, the militiamen operating from both communities had moved over to portions of

the Awajir-Oju State Highway leading to the College of Education, Oju. The emergence of the militiamen on the route forced commercial buses plying the route to the College of Education, to take the longer route through Otukpo to the institution.

On Tuesday evening, unsuspecting transporters had fallen prey to the militiamen, who extorted money from them at gunpoint.